

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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USHER BERLIN 353

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ALL OTHER NATO CAPITALS (SEE BELOW) BY FOUR

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, UERO, CINCEUR, THURSTON AND FIRM.

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Berlin's 472; Bonn's 1357.

1. Department agrees it highly desirable reach prior agreement on swift application TTD ban as possible retaliation East German or Soviet harassments.

2. Presumably such ban would have definite, limited duration when applied against one-shot harassment such as Feb. 12 exclusion of Bishops. This should be clearly understood on all sides, since philosophy in recent use TTD controls was to hold out for satisfaction from East Germans before relaxing.

3. General magnitude of time period for maintaining bans might best be agreed now, since this likely important factor in securing British eventual cooperation and/NATO support. (Dept. suggests about two weeks for incident such as Feb. 12; other periods might vary from week to month:).

4. TTD action against new Communist policy or practice as distinct from one-shot affair, wld of course still have to be held until policy

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Page 2 of telegram to Embassy BONN

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or practice amended.

5. Ban should ideally be complete except for compassionate cases.

6. Rather than blanket authorization to institute ban at discretion ATO, however, Department believes advance agreement on following procedure preferable: Berlin Missions will recommend such action to their governments on understanding that if no objection received in 24 hours ban will go into effect. This will permit evaluation in Berlin, Bonn and capitals of real significance of harassment, which might well not be clear in first instant. Perhaps more importantly, it should remove British qualms (Department agrees with Bonn that these are to be expected otherwise) and increase chances obtaining NATO member commitment to keep their visa issuing policy in accord with NATO policy in such cases. On other hand, 24 hours delay should not blunt effect of retaliation significantly.

7. If this agreeable, suggest Bonn work out tripartite understanding for guidance of ATO and for eventual discussion in NATO. (We shall later wish consult USRO re propitious time raise this in NATO.) Procedure should become effective upon agreement three Governments, however.

8. DEPT considers it desirable that FEDREP cooperate at any time counter-measures are applied, particularly where some degree sacrifice asked of smaller NATO members. Suggest possibility be raised tripartitely with Germans of latter agreeing to match TTD controls for limited period with some form retaliation that could be readily turned on and off, such as harassment shipment East German goods through FEDREP.

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(Pek)

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